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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 50, 2011, APPROVING
THE TRANSFER OF THE RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY
OWNED BY E.J. BEARS, INC. T/A E.J. BEARS, 997 CORTEZ
ROAD, LAKE ARIEL, PENNSYLVANIA, 18436, LICENSE NO.
R-17757 TO POSH RESTAURANT GROUP, LLC., FOR USE AT THE
SCRANTON CLUB LOCATED AT 404 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE,
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA
LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

HELD:

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

LOCATION:

Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI- COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

(Not Present)

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

1 MS. EVANS: I'd like to call this
2 public hearing to order. Roll call, please.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. Mr.
6 Loscombe.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

9 MR. JOYCE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Here. Notice is hereby
12 given to Scranton City Council will hold a
13 public hearing on Tuesday, September 13,
14 2011, at 6:15 p.m. in council chambers,
15 second floor municipal building, 340 North
16 Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania.
17 The purpose of said public hearing is to
18 hear testimony and discuss the following:

19 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 50, 2011,
20 APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF THE RESTAURANT
21 LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY E.J.
22 BEARS, INC. T/A E.J. BEARS, 997 CORTEZ
23 ROAD, LAKE ARIEL, PENNSYLVANIA, 18436,
24 LICENSE NO. R-17757 TO POSH RESTAURANT
25 GROUP, LLC., FOR USE AT THE SCRANTON CLUB

1 LOCATED AT 404 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE,
2 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AS REQUIRED BY THE
3 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

4 Once again, we have no names on the
5 sign-in sheet, so if anyone cares to address
6 council you can approach the podium.

7 MR. PASCALE: Good evening. My name
8 is a Greg Pascale, I'm the attorney
9 representing Posh Restaurant Group. This
10 group is the same owners of the owners of
11 the Colonnade and we have an agreement of
12 sale to purchase the liquor license.
13 Because it's coming from a different
14 municipality to Scranton, we need municipal
15 approval for it, which is the reason we are
16 here. I'd like to have my client, Joshua
17 Mast, address council and explain what they
18 are doing with the license.

19 MR. MAST: Good evening, Council.

20 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

21 MR. MAST: As Greg mentioned, we are
22 also the owners of the Colonnade. We are
23 opening up a second location in the Scranton
24 Club that was sold about a year ago to a
25 group of investors. We have leased the

1 first, second and third floor. We will be
2 opening it up to the public for the first
3 time in 106 years.

4 On the main floor we will be opening
5 up what was the club/bar restaurant and
6 lounge to the public. Restaurant will be
7 open Tuesday through Sunday, bar and lounge
8 will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
9 On the second floor there are two events
10 spaces where we would could do events of up
11 to 300 where now at the Colonnade we are
12 turning business away because we can only
13 accommodate up to 120 there, and on the top
14 floor we have 14 offices.

15 So we are very excited about
16 bringing business, business tax revenue,
17 bringing jobs to downtown Scranton and kind
18 of restoring this, again, property that had
19 fallen on some hard times. Again, we have
20 invested close to 200,000 -- we have alone
21 of up to \$200,000 to invest in the property
22 to, again, you know, make it the way that we
23 want it to be.

24 The landlord has also made
25 significant investments in the property, all

1 new electrical, all new sprinkler system, as
2 you can already see it's been landscaped,
3 it's had a new paint job put on it. We had
4 a job fair this past weekend, we had over 50
5 applicants come out and I have to say
6 probably 90 percent of them were hireable
7 applicants that we can work with and train.

8 We are very excited about this new
9 opportunity and offering this new type of
10 business in Scranton to continue to build
11 the downtown living and life-style here.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you, and I must
13 commend you on the renovation of the
14 Colonnade. It is absolutely magnificent and
15 quite an addition to the City of Scranton,
16 so we wish you well with your newest
17 venture.

18 MR. PASCALE: Any question?

19 MS. EVANS: I have none. Thank you.

20 MR. MAST: Thank you.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just on a quick
22 question, Attorney Pascale, and it has
23 nothing to do with the -- are you leasing
24 the whole building, the offices and
25 everything?

1 MR. MAST: We are leasing the top
2 three floors. The club, the Scranton Club,
3 still exists and it's on the lowest level
4 that we are calling now the club level, and
5 that space has basically been redone for the
6 club members. We are hoping to work with
7 them to slowly hopefully build up that club
8 again. It will never probably be the 600
9 members that it was, but, you know, to help
10 them build their membership, but also just
11 give the property back to the community, you
12 know, a beautiful property that we have in
13 downtown.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Excellent. Lots of
15 luck.

16 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
17 would like to address council? This public
18 hearing is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER